

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

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CaseID: 18477

Date: Wednesday June 08, 2022

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## **Final Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Pilanesberg Platinum Mines (Pty) Ltd

**Proposed Prospecting Right Application on Portion 5 of the farm Ruighoek 169JP, North West. The area under consideration is located adjacent to an area where MRs have previously been granted to PPM. The procurement of a PR is therefore to ensure a development pipeline of the existing operations in the area. Portion 5 of the farm Ruighoek 169JP measures approximately 130 ha in extent. The area within which the prospecting activities are proposed is approximately 5 ha in extent.**

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Pilanesberg Platinum Mines (Pty) Ltd ) to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for Prospecting Rights for PGMs including Gold, Nickel, Copper Cobalt, and other associated metals and minerals on Portion 5 of the Farm Ruighoek 169 JP in the Rustenberg Local Municipality, Bojanala Platinum District, North West Province.

A draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (As Amended) for activities that trigger the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (28 of 2002) (As Amended). The scope of work will entail prospecting activities on an estimated area of about 5 ha. This will include clearance of indigenous vegetation for an area of about 1 ha, nine boreholes and five trenches.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, Dr. Julius CC Pistorius, and Prof. Marion Bamford have been appointed to provide heritage input into the EA process as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA.

*Pistorius, J. March 2022. A Heritage Desktop Study for a Proposed Prospecting Application for Portion 5 of the Farm Guighoek 169JP Near Pilanesberg, North West Province.*

It is noted in the report that a field survey of the study area could not be undertaken due to illegal mining activities on site. Therefore a desktop assessment of the project area was undertaken. A literature review indicates that LIA heritage resources occur in the broader study area. Remote imagery of the study area has shown rudimentary stone walled sites towards the northern part of the prospecting area. This is, however, unclear and this observation may follow patterns of vegetation growth which can be misinterpreted as stone

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walling. In any case these features may be affected by the three northern most boreholes as well as the two northern most trenches. Accordingly, mitigation measures may include shifting the positions of the boreholes and the trenches to avoid these potential rudimentary stone walls. A Chance Find Protocol is recommended for implementation.

*Bamford, M. February 2022. Phase 1 Desktop: Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the Prospecting Right Application on Farm Ruighoek 169JP, West of Pilaanesberg, North West Province.*

The proposed prospecting area lies on the Quaternary sands and alluvium that are unlikely to preserve any fossils although the lithology is indicated as moderately sensitive on the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity Map. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMP. It is recommended that no further PIA is required unless fossils are found by the contractor/ECO once excavations/drilling/mining activities have commenced. The impact is insignificant both before and after mitigation.

## **Final Comment**

The SAHRA's APM Unit has received the draft BAR as part of the Environmental Authorisation process, attached to the BAR are heritage specialist studies. SAHRA supports the recommendation made in the reports by respective specialists and has no objections to the project.

SAHRA inserts the following comments as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed expansion;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- The Archaeological Fossil Chance Find Protocol must be added to the EMP.
- An archaeological walk-down of the northern most parts of the project area and all borehole and trenches must be undertaken prior to construction and a report submitted to SAHRA for commenting. SAHRA reserves the right to object to the development pending the results of the walk-down.
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures,

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indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Nggalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final BAR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

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Elijah Dumisani Katsetse  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

# Proposed Prospecting Right Application on Portion 5 of the farm Ruighoek 169JP

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/596432>

## Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.